

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated by the amended claim set below.

1. (Original) Apparatus adapted to be placed through a body tissue (102) and implanted in a vein (130) for the purpose of intake of fluid through an aperture thereof, comprising:

a hollow tube (118) defining at least one aperture (134); and

at least one extension (122) operative to be at at least two positions with respect to said aperture, a first position near said aperture and a second position in which at least part of said extension extends away from said aperture, wherein if said aperture becomes blocked by an impediment, moving said at least one extension from said first position to said second position operates to displace the impediment from said aperture.

2. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said aperture comprises a front opening at a front end of said tube.

3. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said aperture comprises one or more side openings in a side of said tube.

4. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said aperture comprises at least one front opening at a front end of said tube and at least one side opening in a side of said tube.

5. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~ wherein said impediment comprises an aggregate of solid material.

6. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~ wherein said impediment is down-flow from said hollow tube.

7. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~ wherein said impediment is at least partly within said hollow tube.

8. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~ wherein said impediment comprises a venous valve.

9. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~ wherein said impediment comprises body tissue.

10. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 9 wherein said body tissue is inflamed.

11. (Currently Amended) Apparatus of claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~ wherein said hollow tube is adapted to be implanted in a vein for the purpose of unimpeded intake of fluid for a period of one or more weeks.

12. (Currently Amended) Apparatus of claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~ wherein said hollow tube is adapted to be implanted in a vein for the purpose of unimpeded intake of fluid for a period of one or more months.

13. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, comprising an activating mechanism.

14. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 13 wherein said activating mechanism causes said extensions to extend from said first position to said second position.

15. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 13 wherein said activating mechanism causes said extensions to un-extend from said second position to said first position.

16. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 13 wherein said activating mechanism comprises a locking mechanism that, when unlocked, allows said extensions to extend from said first position to said second position.

17. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 13 ~~any of claims 13-16~~ wherein at least a portion of said activating mechanism is external to said body tissue.

18. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 13 ~~any of claims 13-17~~ wherein a portion of said one or more extensions is external to said body tissue.

19. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 13 ~~any of claims 13-18~~ wherein the activating mechanism is manually activated.

20. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~ wherein the activating mechanism is automatically activated.

21. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~ adapted so that said extending of said extensions occurs prior to said intake of fluid.

22. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~ adapted so that said extending of said extensions occurs during said intake of fluid.

23. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~ adapted so that said extending of said extensions occurs following said intake of fluid.

24. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~ adapted so that at least some extending of said extensions takes place irrespective of intake of fluid.

25. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~ wherein at least part of said one or more extensions, overlaps a front end of said tube when said extensions are in a first position.

26. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~ wherein said at least one aperture is covered by said one or more extensions in said first position.

27. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~ wherein said apertures are arranged to be covered in said first position.

28. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~ wherein one or more of said catheter and said extensions comprise a material that prevents or retards aggregation of solids from said body fluid.

29. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~ wherein one or more of said catheter and said extensions comprise a material that prevents or retards clot formation.

30. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~ wherein one or more of said catheter and said extensions comprise a material that prevents or retards body tissue inflammatory response.

31. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~ wherein one or more of said catheter and said extensions comprise a material that prevents or retards bacteria colonization.

32. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~ wherein the one or more extensions comprise expandable elements.

33. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 32 wherein said one or more expandable elements expand when filled with expansion fluid.

34. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 33, comprising an activating mechanism including a reservoir containing expansion fluid connected to said one or more expandable element extensions.

35. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 33 ~~any of claims 33-34~~ wherein said expansion fluid comprises a material that affects the formation of impediments and wherein said expandable element is at least partly permeable to said material.

36. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1-34~~ wherein the one or more extensions comprise an extension with a deformable area.

37. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 36, wherein when said deformable area deforms, said extension extends from said first position to said second position.

38. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 36 or claim 37 wherein when said extension un-extends from said second position to said first position, said deformable area returns to its pre-deformed state.

39. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1-29~~ wherein the one or more extensions comprise resilient extensions.

40. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1-29 or 36-39~~, comprising a sheath for selectively controlling a position to which said extensions extend.

41. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 40, wherein when said at least one extension exits distally from said sheath they deflect radially.

42. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1-29 or 36-39~~, comprising an extension tube of which said extensions form a distal section, wherein axial distal motion of said extension tube causes said extensions to extend.

43. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 42, wherein a distal section of said extension tube is axially fixed to a front of said hollow tube and wherein said extension tube is slotted.

44. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein said extensions are adapted for an arm vein.

45. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein said extensions are adapted for a non-vein vessel.

46. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein said positions are axially displaced.

47. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein said positions are radially displaced.